

THE PEACE CORPS WEEK

February 23 – March 1, 2009

The Peace Corps is an independent U.S. federal agency. **The Peace Corps** was established by Executive Order 10924 on March 1, 1961, and authorized by Congress on September 22, 1961, with passage of the **Peace Corps Act (Public Law 87-293)**. **The Peace Corps Act** declares the purpose of **the Peace Corps** to be:

“to promote world peace and friendship through a Peace Corps, which shall make available to interested countries and areas men and women of the United States qualified for service abroad and willing to serve, under conditions of hardship if necessary, to help the peoples of such countries and areas in meeting their needs for trained manpower.”

Since 1960, more than 195,000 people have served as **Peace Corps** volunteers in 139 countries.

The Peace Corps sends volunteers around the globe, to more than 70 countries, to work with governments, schools, non-profit organizations, non-government organizations, and entrepreneurs in the areas of education, business, information technology, agriculture, and the environment.

The program officially has three goals:

- To help the people of interested countries and areas in meeting their needs for trained workers;
- To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served;
- To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

The Peace Corps works by first announcing its availability to foreign governments. These governments then determine areas in which the organization can be involved. The organization then matches the requested assignments to its pool of applicants and sends those volunteers with the appropriate skills to the countries that first made the requests.